

Ms. LANDRIEU. I could probably use 5 minutes, if the Senator could be so gracious to allow that, for comments on education.

Mr. BYRD. I have three speeches. I am not noted for brevity in my speeches, but I do not worry about that too much because Cicero was once asked which of Demosthenes' speeches, he, Cicero, liked the best.

Cicero's answer was, "the longest." He liked the longest of Demosthenes' speeches the best. Of course his speech "On the Crown" was probably the greatest speech ever made.

I wonder if the distinguished Senator will let me do my first speech, which will require less than 10 minutes. Then I ask unanimous consent that I may yield to the Senator for her remarks, and that I retain the floor so I might complete my other two speeches.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this morning's Washington Post contained a front page story on our distinguished colleague, Senator STROM THURMOND.

I am the Senator in this body who has served longest with Senator THURMOND. I served with Senator THURMOND when Senator THURMOND was a member of the party on this side of the aisle. So, having served with Senator THURMOND all of these long years, I began reading the story, thinking how nice it was that the paper would devote time and space to take notice of the longest serving U.S. Senator in American history, Senator THURMOND, who has cast more than 15,800 votes. He is a man who loved his country so much that he gave up his draft exemption status during World War II in order to enlist in the U.S. military and take part in the invasion of Normandy and the liberation of Europe. I salute Senator THURMOND for his patriotism. He didn't have to do that, but he did it.

As I read the story, I was filled with dismay, then revulsion. Contrary to my expectation, what I was reading was a demeaning drivel filled with denigrating language and insensitive images.

As I read, I kept asking myself, what is the point of this story? Is there any purpose to be served by it?

This is certainly not a news story. Yet, it is on the front page of a major national newspaper—a newspaper that is read around the world everyday, a newspaper that is a great newspaper.

I can see neither a point nor a purpose to the story other than a pathetic attempt to demean an outstanding man and a long serving, distinguished federal lawmaker.

Every senior citizen in America ought to be offended by this orgy of pejorative blather which aims only to viciously exploit something as normal as the human aging process.

We are all going to be old one day, if we live long enough. We ought to be

conscious of that fact. We should be conscious of it every day regardless of what pursuit we follow in life.

Is there no decency anymore?

Is there no respect for anything anymore?

The people of South Carolina continue to place their confidence and their trust in Senator THURMOND. They elected Senator THURMOND to represent their State in the U.S. Senate. And they have elected him and reelected him many times. That is their judgment to make, and I respect their judgment, and so should everybody else.

The Senate is a collective body of 100 men and women who have been elected by the people of their various States to make the Nation's laws. We are a unique body. One-thousand, eight hundred and sixty-four men and women have served in the Senate since the first day it met in 1789.

We are a special body. While we may have our disagreements on this floor, I believe that the Members of this body for the most part respect each other off the Senate floor as well as on the Senate floor.

However, midway through the story, the Post journalist quotes a Senator who "agreed to speak candidly only if he was granted anonymity."

I am speaking candidly today, and I don't do so with anonymity.

At any rate, the story quotes the unnamed Senator as saying, in talking about Senator THURMOND, "At what point do you draw the line?"

That is the question I kept asking myself as I read this inappropriate, tasteless, cheap-shot piece of journalism: At what point do you draw the line?

That is the very question the Washington Post should have been asking before they chose to print their tabloid tripe: At what point do you draw the line?

May I suggest that the real story here is not Senator THURMOND's age. The real story should be that he loves this institution so much and loves serving the people of South Carolina so much that he, at the age of 98, continues to serve and have the courage to carry on, and that he loves his country so much that he was willing to set aside his exempt status in World War II and participate in that dreadful landing on the beaches of Normandy and risk his life, as so many others risked their lives. And many of them never returned. Senator THURMOND continues to serve and have the courage to carry on, in spite of non-news, deeply offensive stories such as the one in today's Washington Post.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

EDUCATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his heartfelt and wonderful remarks. I thank him for yielding just a

few minutes this afternoon to me to speak about the subject of education to follow up on many of the things our colleague from Connecticut, Senator DODD, said so eloquently just a few minutes ago. I appreciate the Senator from West Virginia yielding.

I could actually spend over an hour speaking about this subject because it is so important to our Nation, and it is so important to the State I represent, Louisiana. I will come back often during this debate to try to help focus our attention on some of the aspects of this educational debate that is so important.

Let me begin by simply saying that we are spending a good amount of money on education today. We are spending about \$18 billion. That is a lot of money. It is a lot of money to the people of Louisiana. And title I is \$3.6 billion with a "b"—not a million but a billion. That is a huge amount of money, but, unfortunately, I am here to say today that it is not enough to do the things we know we need to do to help reform and improve our schools and to truly give every child in this country a chance to succeed.

As the Senator from West Virginia knows, there are no guarantees in this life. The Government cannot guarantee every citizen a good life. But our Constitution, the formation of this country, and the reason we come to work I think every day as Senators and Members of this body is to try to provide at least equal opportunity and an equal chance to succeed, to be a part of this great Nation.

There are many ways we can try to do that. But one fundamental way is through the process of formal education—providing excellence in education to every child, whether they be born into a wealthy family, or a poor family, a black family, or a white family, whether they are born in California or New York or Louisiana or Minnesota.

Today, as a nation, we believe we have an obligation. We did not always believe that because prior to 1965 education was a very local enterprise. But since 1965, this Government has recognized that the Federal Government does, in fact, have a role to play, not only in helping States with dollars but, hopefully, now helping them with direction, and moving them to reforms into excellence because while some of our public schools are working, too many of them are failing.

So as we speak about this education debate, yes, we are spending a significant amount of money, but it is not nearly enough. In fact, you can look at how our money has really not increased.

For the record, let me share with you that the title I portion, which is \$3.6 billion of the \$18 billion total, since 1965, has barely kept pace with inflation. So while every year we come to Washington and say education is our No. 1 priority—the polls most certainly indicate that on the Republican side